

Filed 7-16-13

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS  
AUSTIN DIVISION

Clerk, U. S. District Court  
Western District of Texas

By [Signature] Deputy

**A13 CR 346 SS**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

v.

MICHAEL BAKER (1),  
MICHAEL GLUK (2),

Defendants.

) CRIMINAL NO.

) **FILED UNDER SEAL**

) **INDICTMENT**

) [Violation: 18 U.S.C. § 1349 - Conspiracy to  
) Commit Wire and Securities Fraud;  
) 18 U.S.C. §§ 1343 and 2 - Wire Fraud;  
) 18 U.S.C. §§ 1348 and 2 - Securities Fraud;  
) and 18 U.S.C. § 1001 - False Statements]

THE GRAND JURY CHARGES:

**General Allegations**

At all relevant times to this Indictment:

**Relevant Individuals and Entities**

1. ArthroCare Corporation ("ArthroCare") was a Delaware corporation headquartered in Austin, Texas.
2. Among other products, ArthroCare sold medical devices that used its patented technology, called Coblation, to physicians and surgery centers. Coblation technology was designed to be used by physicians in surgical procedures to remove soft tissue in a way that was minimally invasive.
3. ArthroCare sold medical devices directly to physicians, surgery centers, and other end-users through its sales representatives and sales agents. In addition, ArthroCare sold

medical devices to distributors, who would then resell ArthroCare's products to physicians, surgery centers, and other end-users.

4. ArthroCare's stock was traded publicly on NASDAQ, a national securities exchange, and its stock was registered with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

5. DiscoCare, Inc. ("DiscoCare") was a privately owned Delaware corporation, which was incorporated in 2005. DiscoCare was located at 2047 Palm Beach Lakes, Suite 200, West Palm Beach, Florida. ArthroCare was DiscoCare's only supplier. At various times, DiscoCare was ArthroCare's largest single distributor of medical devices. On December 31, 2007, ArthroCare acquired DiscoCare.

6. Distributor 1 was a privately owned Oklahoma corporation, which was incorporated in 1988. Distributor 1 acted as a sales agent and then as a distributor of ArthroCare's medical devices.

7. Distributor 2 was a privately owned California corporation, which was incorporated in 1982. Distributor 2 acted as a distributor of ArthroCare's medical devices.

8. Distributor 3 was a privately owned Pennsylvania corporation, which was incorporated in 1981. Distributor 3 acted as a sales agent and then as a distributor of ArthroCare's medical devices.

9. Distributor 4 was a privately owned Australian limited liability company. Distributor 4 acted as a distributor of ArthroCare medical devices until August 2006, when ArthroCare acquired Distributor 4.

The Defendants

10. From 1997 until February 2009, **MICHAEL BAKER** was employed by ArthroCare. For the entire time period of his employment, **BAKER** was the Chief Executive Officer of ArthroCare. **BAKER** also served as a Director on ArthroCare's Board of Directors. All employees of ArthroCare ultimately reported to **BAKER**.

11. From 2004 until December 2008, **MICHAEL GLUK** was employed by ArthroCare. From 2004 until approximately May 2006, **GLUK** was Vice President of Finance and Administration. From approximately May 2006 until December 2008, **GLUK** was the Chief Financial Officer of ArthroCare. As Chief Financial Officer, all finance and accounting staff at ArthroCare reported to **GLUK**.

12. As ArthroCare employees, **BAKER** and **GLUK** received bonuses, restricted stock, and stock options that were tied to ArthroCare's financial performance.

The Co-Conspirators

13. From 1997 until December 2008, John Raffle was employed by ArthroCare. From approximately June 2001 until approximately May 2006, Raffle was Vice President of Corporate Development and Legal Affairs. From approximately May 2006 until December 2008, Raffle was the Senior Vice President of Strategic Business Units. As Senior Vice President of Strategic Business Units, all marketing and sales staff at ArthroCare reported to Raffle.

14. From 2001 until December 2008, David Applegate was employed by ArthroCare. In approximately February 2004, Applegate became the Vice President in charge of ArthroCare's Spine division. As the Vice President in charge of the Spine division, all

marketing staff in the Spine division reported to Applegate. In 2006, all sales staff in the Spine division also began reporting to Applegate. In April 2008, Applegate was promoted to Senior Vice President.

The Federal Securities Laws and SEC Rules and Regulations

15. The SEC was an independent agency of the United States government that was charged by law with preserving honest and efficient markets in securities. The federal securities laws, regulations, and rules were designed to ensure that the financial information of publicly traded companies was accurately recorded and disclosed to the investing public. As a publicly traded company, ArthroCare and its directors, officers, and employees were required to comply with the federal securities laws, regulations, and rules. Under the federal securities laws and regulations, ArthroCare was required, among other things, to file with the SEC annual reports (known as SEC Forms 10-K), quarterly reports (known as SEC Forms 10-Q), and other periodic reports that included accurate and reliable financial statements.

16. From June 2006 through March 2008, for each annual and quarterly report ArthroCare filed with the SEC, **BAKER** and **GLUK** signed certifications attesting that, among other things, based on their knowledge (a) the reports did not contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact necessary to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which such statements were made, not misleading; and (b) that the reports fairly presented in all material respects the financial condition of ArthroCare.

**The Scheme to Defraud**

A. Overview of the Scheme

17. From at least December 2005 through in or about December 2008, **BAKER, GLUK, Raffle, Applegate**, and others, known and unknown, devised, intended to devise, and executed a scheme to defraud ArthroCare's shareholders and members of the investing public by: (a) inflating falsely ArthroCare's revenue by tens of millions of dollars; (b) concealing the nature and financial significance of ArthroCare's relationship with DiscoCare and other distributors; and (c) using a series of sham transactions to manipulate ArthroCare's revenue and earnings as reported to investors.

B. Purpose of the Scheme

18. The purpose of the scheme was to: (a) conceal from ArthroCare's shareholders, the investing public, and ArthroCare's external auditors the true nature of the purported sales to ArthroCare's distributors; (b) make materially false and fraudulent representations to ArthroCare's shareholders and the investing public about ArthroCare's financial condition in order to maintain and increase the market price of ArthroCare's stock; and (c) enrich **BAKER, GLUK, Raffle**, and others through the continued receipt of compensation and the appreciation of their own ArthroCare stock and stock options.

19. **BAKER, GLUK, Raffle, Applegate**, and others inflated falsely ArthroCare's sales and revenue through a series of end-of-quarter transactions involving ArthroCare's distributors, including DiscoCare and Distributors 1 through 4. After **BAKER, GLUK, Raffle, Applegate**, and others determined the type and amount of product to be shipped to distributors based on ArthroCare's need to meet sales forecasts, rather than the distributors' need for the

products, **BAKER, GLUK**, Raffle, Applegate, and others caused ArthroCare to ship millions of dollars worth of ArthroCare's medical devices to its distributors at the end of quarters. ArthroCare would then report these shipments as sales in its quarterly and annual filings at the time of the shipment, enabling the company to meet or exceed internal and external earnings forecasts.

20. However, as **BAKER, GLUK**, Raffle, and Applegate knew, ArthroCare's distributors agreed to accept shipment of millions of dollars of excess inventory because ArthroCare had agreed to: (a) provide the distributors extended payment terms; (b) pay the distributors substantial, upfront cash commissions; (c) allow the distributors to return the product; and (d) in some cases, acquire the distributor and the excess inventory so that the distributor would not have to ultimately pay ArthroCare for the products at all.

21. **BAKER, GLUK**, Raffle, and Applegate caused ArthroCare to inflate falsely its revenue by tens of millions of dollars, as ArthroCare was prohibited from counting such shipments as sales under the accounting rules governing revenue recognition and also under ArthroCare's internal revenue recognition policy. In addition, ArthroCare failed to disclose the conditions related to the shipment of the product in its quarterly and annual filings, and instead claimed in its filings that that it was following the revenue recognition rules. In essence, **BAKER, GLUK**, Raffle, and Applegate caused ArthroCare to park tens of millions of dollars of its inventory with its distributors, while causing ArthroCare to inform investors that it had actually sold the product.

22. **BAKER, GLUK**, Raffle, and others also concealed the nature and extent of ArthroCare's relationship with DiscoCare and other distributors. With respect to DiscoCare, **BAKER, GLUK**, Raffle, Applegate, and others arranged to have ArthroCare purchase

DiscoCare on December 31, 2007 to conceal from investors the nature and financial significance of ArthroCare's relationship with DiscoCare, including that: (a) DiscoCare was, by far, ArthroCare's largest single source of revenue from December 2005 through December 2007, and that ArthroCare reported over \$37 million in revenue in its publicly filed financial statements based on purported sales to DiscoCare; (b) DiscoCare accounted for almost all of the growth in ArthroCare's Spine division during that time period; (c) DiscoCare accounted for almost all of the growth in ArthroCare's Sports division in the Third and Fourth Quarters of 2007; (d) DiscoCare's receivable to ArthroCare (the amount that DiscoCare owed to ArthroCare) was, by far, the largest of any ArthroCare customer, and that by December 2007, DiscoCare owed ArthroCare over \$26 million; (e) ArthroCare billed DiscoCare nearly four times as much for medical devices as compared to what ArthroCare billed its other customers; and (g) the vast majority of DiscoCare's business was contingent on obtaining payment for the medical devices it purchased from ArthroCare through the settlement of personal injury cases.

23. **BAKER, GLUK**, Raffle, Applegate, and others also manipulated ArthroCare's revenue and earnings reported to investors through a series of sham transactions. When **BAKER, GLUK**, Raffle, Applegate, and others learned, after the end of a reporting period, that ArthroCare's revenues or earnings were less than a desired amount, they caused ArthroCare to manipulate revenue or earnings through sham transactions designed to increase revenue or earnings. When **BAKER, GLUK**, Raffle, Applegate, and others learned, after the end of a reporting period, that ArthroCare's revenues exceeded a desired amount, they caused ArthroCare to enter into sham transactions that lowered revenue.

C. False Inflation of ArthroCare's Earnings

24. Shareholders of ArthroCare stock, stock market analysts, and members of the investing public tracked ArthroCare's earnings per share or "EPS." EPS was considered a key determinant of a company's share price because it reflected a company's profitability. ArthroCare reported its EPS each quarter in Forms 10-Q, and each year in Forms 10-K, which were filed with the SEC.

25. Between in or about 2005 through in or about July 2008, **BAKER** and **GLUK** communicated to the shareholders of ArthroCare stock, stock market analysts, and members of the investing public that ArthroCare would grow revenue and EPS by at least twenty percent each year.

26. Based in part on these communications from **BAKER** and **GLUK**, and prior to ArthroCare's financial reporting for each quarter and for each year, stock market analysts issued forecasts for the company's EPS. The average of the analysts' predictions about ArthroCare's EPS was referred to as the "consensus EPS."

27. **BAKER**, **GLUK**, Raffle, and other senior executives at ArthroCare closely tracked the consensus EPS for each quarter and each year.

28. For each financial reporting period from December 2005 through December 2007, ArthroCare purportedly met or exceeded the stock market analysts' consensus EPS.

29. As described in Paragraphs 17 through 23 above, **BAKER**, **GLUK**, Raffle, Applegate, and others directed the end-of-quarter shipments to ArthroCare's distributors and engaged in other sham transactions in order to overcome quarterly revenue shortfalls and to meet the consensus EPS. **BAKER**, **GLUK**, Raffle, Applegate, and others concealed the true nature of



the purported sales on the end-of-quarter shipments from ArthroCare's external auditors so that ArthroCare could recognize as revenue the purported sales in ArthroCare's publicly filed financial statements and so that ArthroCare would meet the consensus EPS.

D. The Victims

30. Between December 2005 and December 2008, ArthroCare's shareholders held more than 25 million shares of ArthroCare stock.

31. On July 21, 2008, ArthroCare announced publicly that it would be restating its previously reported financial results from the Third Quarter 2006 through the First Quarter 2008. That day, the price of ArthroCare shares dropped from approximately \$40.03 to approximately \$23.21 per share. On December 19, 2008, ArthroCare announced publicly that it had identified accounting errors and possible irregularities in its revenue recognition practices going back to 2005. That day, the price of ArthroCare shares dropped from approximately \$16.23 to approximately \$5.92 per share.

**THE CHARGES**

**COUNT ONE**

**Conspiracy to Commit Wire and Securities Fraud  
(18 U.S.C. § 1349)**

32. Paragraphs 1 through 31 of this Indictment are realleged and incorporated by reference as though fully set forth herein.

33. From at least December 2005, the exact date being unknown to the Grand Jury, through December 2008, in the Western District of Texas and elsewhere, the defendants,

**MICHAEL BAKER  
and  
MICHAEL GLUK**

did knowingly and willfully conspire and agree with John Raffle, David Applegate, and others known and unknown to the Grand Jury, to commit certain offenses against the United States, namely:

- (a) wire fraud, that is, to knowingly and with intent to defraud, devise, and intend to devise a scheme and artifice to defraud, and to obtain money and property by means of materially false and fraudulent pretenses, representations, and promises, knowing that they were false and fraudulent when made, and transmitting and causing certain wire communications to be transmitted in interstate and foreign commerce, for the purpose of executing the scheme and artifice, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1343; and
- (b) securities fraud, that is, to knowingly and intentionally execute a scheme and artifice
  - (i) to defraud any person in connection with any security of ArthroCare, an issuer with a class of securities registered under § 12 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (Title 15, United States Code, § 781), and (ii) to obtain, by means of materially false and fraudulent pretenses, representations, and promises, any money and property in connection with the purchase and sale of any security of ArthroCare, an issuer with a class of securities registered under § 12 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (Title 15, United States Code, § 781), in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1348.

#### **PURPOSE OF THE CONSPIRACY**

34. The Grand Jury realleges and incorporates by reference Paragraph 18 of this Indictment as a description of the purpose of the conspiracy.

**MANNER AND MEANS**

35. The Grand Jury realleges and incorporates by reference Paragraphs 18 through 29 of this Indictment as a description of the manner and means of the conspiracy.

All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1349.

**COUNTS TWO THROUGH TWELVE**

**Wire Fraud**

**(18 U.S.C. §§ 1343 and 2)**

36. Paragraphs 1 through 31 of this Indictment are realleged and incorporated by reference as though fully set forth herein.

37. From at least December 2005, the exact date being unknown to the Grand Jury, through December 2008, in the Western District of Texas and elsewhere, the defendants,

**MICHAEL BAKER  
and  
MICHAEL GLUK**

aided and abetted by others known and unknown to the Grand Jury, did knowingly and with intent to defraud devise a scheme and artifice to defraud, and to obtain money and property by means of materially false and fraudulent pretenses, representations and promises, knowing that the pretenses, representations, and promises were false and fraudulent when made.

**PURPOSE OF THE SCHEME AND ARTIFICE**

38. The Grand Jury realleges and incorporates by reference Paragraph 18 of this Indictment as a description of the purpose of the scheme and artifice.

**THE SCHEME AND ARTIFICE**

39. The Grand Jury realleges and incorporates by reference Paragraphs 18 through 29 of this Indictment as a description of the scheme and artifice.

**USE OF THE WIRES**

40. On or about the dates specified as to each count below, the defendants, in the Western District of Texas and elsewhere, for the purpose of executing the aforesaid scheme and artifice to defraud, and attempting to do so, did knowingly transmit and cause to be transmitted, by means of wire communications in interstate and foreign commerce, certain writings, signs, signals, pictures, and sounds, as more particularly described below:

<b>Count</b>	<b>Defendant(s)</b>	<b>Approximate Date</b>	<b>Description of Wire Communication</b>
2	<b>BAKER GLUK</b>	January 18, 2008	ArthroCare Conference Call with <b>BAKER</b> and <b>GLUK</b> in Texas and investors and analysts in various States
3	<b>BAKER GLUK</b>	January 24, 2008	Email from <b>GLUK</b> in Texas to a third-party routed through ArthroCare's servers in California
4	<b>BAKER GLUK</b>	January 24, 2008	Email from <b>GLUK</b> in Texas to a third-party routed through ArthroCare's servers in California
5	<b>BAKER GLUK</b>	January 25, 2008	Email from <b>BAKER</b> in Texas to a third-party routed through ArthroCare's servers in California
6	<b>BAKER GLUK</b>	February 19, 2008	ArthroCare Conference Call with <b>BAKER</b> and <b>GLUK</b> in Texas and investors and analysts in various States
7	<b>BAKER GLUK</b>	March 20, 2008	Email from <b>GLUK</b> to <b>BAKER</b> in Texas routed through ArthroCare's servers in California
8	<b>BAKER GLUK</b>	April 17, 2008	Email from <b>BAKER</b> to an ArthroCare employee in Texas routed through ArthroCare's servers in California
9	<b>BAKER GLUK</b>	April 21, 2008	ArthroCare Conference Call with <b>BAKER</b> and <b>GLUK</b> in Texas and investors and analysts in various States
10	<b>BAKER GLUK</b>	May 9, 2008	Email from <b>BAKER</b> to Raffle in Texas routed through ArthroCare's servers in California
11	<b>BAKER GLUK</b>	May 14, 2008	Email from <b>BAKER</b> to Raffle in Texas routed through ArthroCare's servers in California
12	<b>BAKER GLUK</b>	June 9, 2008	Email from <b>BAKER</b> to <b>GLUK</b> , Raffle and Applegate in Texas and routed through ArthroCare's servers in California

In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1343 and 2.

**COUNTS THIRTEEN THROUGH FOURTEEN****Securities Fraud  
(18 U.S.C. §§ 1348 and 2)**

41. Paragraphs 1 through 31 of this Indictment are realleged and incorporated by reference as though fully set forth herein.

42. On or about the dates set forth below, each such date constituting a separate count of this Indictment, within the Western District of Texas and elsewhere, the defendants

**MICHAEL BAKER  
and  
MICHAEL GLUK**

did knowingly and intentionally execute a scheme and artifice (a) to defraud any person in connection with any security of ArthroCare, an issuer with a class of securities registered under § 12 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (Title 15, United States Code, § 781), and (b) to obtain, by means of materially false and fraudulent pretenses, representations, and promises, any money and property in connection with the purchase and sale of any security of ArthroCare, an issuer with a class of securities registered under § 12 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (Title 15, United States Code, § 781), to wit, **BAKER, GLUK**, and others made, and caused to be made, false and misleading representations to ArthroCare's shareholders and members of the investing public about ArthroCare's quarterly and annual sales, revenues, expenses and earnings, and about the nature and financial significance of ArthroCare's relationship with its distributors.

<b>Count</b>	<b>Approximate Date</b>	<b>Description of Event</b>
13	February 29, 2008	SEC Form 10-K for 2007
14	May 12, 2008	SEC Form 10-Q for First Quarter 2008

In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1348 and 2.

**COUNTS FIFTEEN THROUGH SEVENTEEN****False Statements  
(18 U.S.C. § 1001)**

43. Paragraphs 1 through 31 of this Indictment are realleged and incorporated by reference as though fully set forth herein.

44. On or about the dates specified as to each count below, in the Western District of Texas and elsewhere, the defendant **MICHAEL BAKER** made statements to representatives of the United States Securities and Exchange Commission that were materially false, as more particularly described below:

<b>Count</b>	<b>Approximate Date</b>	<b>False Statement(s)</b>
15	November 18, 2009	In his sworn deposition before the SEC, <b>BAKER</b> falsely stated that he did not participate in any discussions with Raffle related to a return merchandise authorization transaction in the Second Quarter of 2006 that was designed to move revenue from one quarter to the next, did not authorize that transaction, and was not aware at the time of whether that transaction took place.
16	November 18, 2009	In his sworn deposition before the SEC, <b>BAKER</b> falsely stated that the DiscoCare acquisition was not done to avoid having to disclose the size of DiscoCare's receivable, and that he was never part of a discussion regarding the acquisition being used to avoid disclosing the size of the DiscoCare receivable.
17	November 18, 2009	In his sworn deposition before the SEC, <b>BAKER</b> falsely stated that the \$25 million purchase price for DiscoCare was not related to the \$25 million termination fee in ArthroCare's existing contract with DiscoCare, and that there was never any discussion of basing the \$25 million purchase price on the termination fee.

In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1001.

**FORFEITURE ALLEGATION**

45. As the result of committing wire, and securities fraud offenses, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1343, 1348, 1349 and 2, and, as alleged in Counts One

through Fourteen of this Indictment, **MICHAEL BAKER** and **MICHAEL GLUK**, the defendants, shall forfeit to the United States pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 981(a)(1)(C) and 28 U.S.C. § 2461, all property, real and personal, that constitutes or is derived from proceeds traceable to the commission of the offenses alleged in Counts One through Fourteen of this Indictment.

**Substitute Asset Provision**

46. If any of the above described forfeitable property, as a result of any act or omission of the defendant:

- (a) cannot be located upon the exercise of due diligence;
- (b) has been transferred or sold to, or deposited with, a third person;
- (c) has been placed beyond the jurisdiction of the Court;
- (d) has been substantially diminished in value;
- (e) or has been commingled with other property which cannot be subdivided without difficulty;

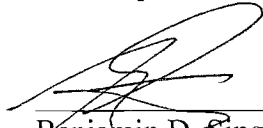
it is the intent of the United States, pursuant to 21 U.S.C. § 853(p), to seek forfeiture of any other property of said defendant up to the value of the above forfeitable property.

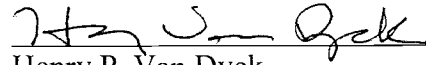
Title 18, United States Code, Sections 981 and 1343; Title 28, United States Code, Section 2461.

A TRUE BILL:

ORIGINAL SIGNATURE  
REDACTED PURSUANT TO  
E-GOVERNMENT ACT OF 2002

JEFFREY H. KNOX  
Chief  
Fraud Section, Criminal Division  
U.S. Department of Justice

By:   
Benjamin D. Singer  
Deputy Chief  
Fraud Section, Criminal Division  
U.S. Department of Justice

By:   
Henry P. Van Dyck  
Trial Attorney  
Fraud Section, Criminal Division  
U.S. Department of Justice